Creation Matters

Winter 2024
Volume 29 Number 1

A publication of the
Creation Research Society

New Lab Director for the Van Andel Creation Research Center

The CRS Board is pleased to announce that the Lab Director position at the Van Andel Creation Research Center has been filled at last. Dr. Joel Brown will be taking the position that has been vacant since the untimely death of Dr. Kevin Anderson in 2022. Joel, his wife Erin, and their 7 children currently live in St. Louis, Missouri, but will be moving to Arizona as he starts this new position.

Dr. Brown gave his life to Christ at a young age and was raised to understand the Biblical model of origins. He fell in love with creation science while working at Kent Hovind's Dinosaur Adventure Land as a young man and later entered the world of academia where he developed his credentials and spent more than decade in research and teaching. He is quite accomplished in speaking on creation science and evolution as well, having given over 60 presentations on the topic.

Dr. Brown holds a Ph.D. in Genetics, Genomics, and Development from Cornell University. He also holds a B.S. in Biology Education from Pensacola Christian College and a M.S. in Biology from the University of West Florida. His academic record is outstanding, with a 4.0 GPA in his doctoral studies.

During his graduate studies, he researched mouse developmental genetics and used fruit flies as a model system for studying a protease involved in the onset of Alzheimer's Disease in humans. After his doctoral studies, he also went on to complete his post-doctoral studies at Washington University School of Medicine where he investigated mechanisms of neural regeneration in the spinal cord of zebrafish, with potential application for healing nerve damage in mammals. In addition to his research experience, Dr. Brown has significant teaching experience at the secondary and post-secondary levels, including undergraduate General Biology and Genetics labs.

In his most recent position, Dr. Brown was the Coordinator for the Little Creek Nature Area in St. Louis, Missouri where he taught biology classes to public high school students and managed a 7-person staff and 97-acre nature area that serves as an outdoor classroom for K-12 students and provides educational programs to the community.

As the new director of the Van Andel Creation Research Center, Dr. Brown will be directing and overseeing the research projects of the Creation Research Society, such as the eKINDS and iDINO Projects, and managing the facilities at the VACRC. The lab director provides instruction for two biology classes per semester at Arizona Christian University as part of an agreement for the use of their facilities. Dr. Brown will be teaching these classes for ACU. Additionally, he will be speaking at churches and other venues to represent the CRS, organizing the annual CRS Conference, and fostering creation research among the members of the CRS, especially as they relate to the VACRC. Dr. Brown has also expressed an interest in collaboration with creation researchers from other creation organizations and making creation science research more accessible to the public.

We thank the Lord that our prayers have been answered with this exceptional scientist being chosen to fill the director position. We look forward to seeing where he will lead creation research in the future.

CM

Math Matters

Some Solar Math

by Don DeYoung, PhD

Solar eclipses are in recent news. Their apparent similar sizes allow the moon to cover the sun with temporary mid-day darkness. Although the moon is nearly 400 times smaller than the sun, it is also 400 times closer, leading to the size match. Those who experience a total solar eclipse might suggest that this precise display of creation beauty shows planning rather than coincidence.

The moon is a solar reflector with no light of its own. Comparing the brightness of the full moon with the sun, the light ratio is about 1:398,000. That is, it would take this many full moons completely covering the sky to equal the brightness of the sun. These are truly the lesser and greater lights in our sky.

The sun holds 99.86% of the total solar system mass. If the sun originated by the collapse of a gas cloud, as often assumed, one would expect the sun to have a large angular momentum (L), analogous to a skater spinning rapidly as arms are drawn inward. However, the sun has a lazy spin averaging 27 days for each rotation and comprising just 2% of the total solar system L. The orbital L of Jupiter alone is 20 times greater than the rotational L of the sun. This low value of solar angular momentum remains a problem for secular origin theories.

The sun generates energy by converting hydrogen to helium within its core. In the process, there is a loss of mass (m) which becomes energy (E) by way of $E = mc^2$, where c is light speed. This energy is in many forms, including heat, light, radiation, sound, and thermal motion. Solar nuclear fusion occurs on a grand scale, resulting in a mass loss of 5 million kg (400 million tons) every second—nonstop. Although large, this mass loss is negligible compared to the sun's total mass; the sun's fuel gage is still pinned on full! Nuclear research has had very limited success harnessing the nuclear fusion process for practical energy production, yet this energy supply operates for the sun and all other stars.

Total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017 over Oregon showing the sun's outer plasma corona atmosphere. Photo from NASA.

In current theory, solar fusion of hydrogen produces subatomic neutrino particles which make their way outward from the core to the solar surface and on into space. At the earth's surface, 93 million miles from the sun, this remarkable flood of neutrinos numbers on the order of 100 billion particles passing through every square centimeter each second. Neutrinos are very elusive, and most pass directly through the entire earth at light speed.

Consider a few more solar math facts. The sun carries along the entire solar system as it revolves about the Milky Way Galaxy, traveling at 828,000 km/hr, or about one-half million miles/hr. Here on earth we cover many millions of miles of space each day! The vast size of our galaxy requires 230 million years for one

See **Solar** *on page 6*

Table of Contents

New Lab Director 1
Math Matters 2
The Importance and Function of Fascia 3
Research Matters. 4
Apologetics in the New Testament 5
Prayer Matters 8

Creation Matters

ISSN 1094-6632
Volume 29, Number 1, Winter 2024
Copyright © 2024 Creation Research Society
All rights reserved

Editor: Lindsay Harold
Assistant Editor: Cheri Fields
Layout Services: Guy Forsythe, guyf@cryingrocks.com

Creation Matters is a publication of Creation Research Society, 1 W. Firestorm Way #145, Glendale, AZ 85306, www.creationresearch.org

Article submissions and inquiries for *Creation Matters* can be addressed to CMeditor@creationresearch.org

Articles published in *Creation Matters* represent the opinions and beliefs of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the CRS.

The Importance and Functions of Fascia

Does New Research Shed Light on Psalm 139:13?

by Jerry Bergman, PhD

"For it was You who created my inward parts; you *knit me together* in my mother's womb. I will praise You because I have been fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalms 139:13-14 (NIV)

Most of the 20 translations I consulted also used the word "knit" or "wove" me together in verse 13 of the Psalm. An example of a close cognate is in the *New American Standard Bible,* which says: "For you created my innermost parts; You *wove me* in my mother's womb." The expression *knit together* refers to assembling parts so that they are held together. The book of Job says something similar: "You clothed me with skin and flesh, and *knit me together* with bones and sinews" (Job 10:11). The *Bible in Basic English* uses the expression "joined together with bones and muscles." The new research on fascia may help us understand one possible meaning of Psalm 139:13.

Fascia Covers our Body Structures and Helps Hold Them Together

Fascia (plural *fasciae*) is a long-ignored body tissue that is now recognized as an important sensory organ. Recent research on this organ is now "revealing the true significance of a body tissue that has been overlooked by science for centuries" (Williams, 2022, p. 38). **Fascia**, *Tabor's Medical Dictionary* notes, is a Latin term meaning to 'band' in order to hold structures together. It has several functions, but its primary roles include both to cover body tissues and to help hold our body together (Unbound, 2022). This complex fibrous membrane also functions for covering, supporting, and separating tissues, even entire organs.

The three types of fascia are the ***superficial fascia***, located directly under the skin, the ***deep fascia***, which wraps around the muscles and organs and connects them to each other, and the ***visceral fascia***, which lines the body cavity and divides it into compartments to both contain and separate the body's organs. These thin, strong-yet-flexible connective tissue sheets line nearly every part of the body and are designed to help keep muscles and organs in their proper place (Williams, 2022).

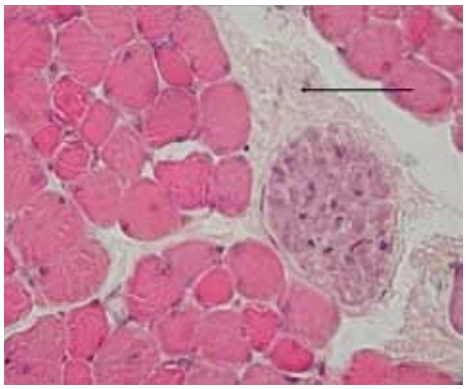
Fascia Turns Out to Be a Very Complex Organ

As the biochemical details of fascia have been investigated, it was realized that it is far more than

> an inert wrapping. Instead, it is a site of biological activity that explains some of the links between lifestyle and health. It may even be a new type of sensory organ…. a better understanding of this ubiquitous tissue is sorely needed.… it has the potential to provide new ways to tackle many common yet hard-to-treat conditions, from immune dysfunction to chronic pain. (Williams, 2022, p. 38)

Fascia connective tissue is a complex, well-designed structure that consists of thin tissue sheets containing stretchy elastin (derived from the word 'elastic') fibers and strong collagen fibers. Collagen is composed primarily of the amino acids glycine, proline, and hydroxyproline which form the three strands that produce the collagen's triple-helix structure. This design is used, not only in the connective tissue in fascia, but also in skin, tendons, bones, and cartilage. These fibrous sheets are often separated by "areolar" or "loose" fascia. The gaps between the fibers are filled with a slippery-smooth substance that allows the surrounding layers to slide over each other, giving the fascia the ability to conform to the shape of organs yet allowing significant movement.

This slippery, cushioning, lubrication



Skeletal muscle cross-section showing muscle fascia (white tissue at arrow). Derived from an image on Wikimedia Commons from the Department of Histology, Jagiellonian University Medical College. License: CC BY-SA 3.0

matrix consists of hyaluronic acid and proteoglycan molecules. The fascia fibers and the lubricant are secreted by specialized cells, including fibroblasts and the newly discovered fasciacyte cells. The interstitium is the fluid-filled connective tissue that lines every organ, muscle fiber, and blood vessel. It functions both as a shock-absorber and as an immune network involved in inflammatory disorders and scar formation.

The details of the interstitium were discovered only in 2018 when Mount Sinai Medical School professor Neil Thiese and his colleagues used a newly developed microscopic technique to examine the fascia structure in a living person undergoing a biopsy. In the past, it was only possible to see this tissue by removing it and squashing it on a microscope slide, a procedure that causes significant distortion. The researchers found when fascia was examined "in living tissue, what had previously looked like a dense tangle of fibers actually had a sponge-like structure filled with fluid that drained into the lymphatic system, part of the body's immune set-up" (Williams, 2022, p. 40).

See **Fascia** *on page 6*

Research Matters

Summaries of Cutting-Edge Research from the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*

Summaries by Andrea Reitan

The Post-Flood Ark Dispersal and Early Pleistocene

The massive layers of fossil-bearing sediments all over the Earth are believed to be the evidence of the worldwide Flood spoken about in Genesis 6-8. However, among YEC models, there is some disagreement about the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary. Some claim that this boundary occurs at the top of the Cretaceous (K-Pg boundary), which is below the Tejas Megasequence, while others propose that it occurs higher, near the Neogene-Quaternary (N-Q boundary) so the Tejas Megasequence is included as Flood sediment. The reasoning for a later Flood/post-Flood boundary is that the Tejas, which consists of carbonate rocks (limestone) and salt deposits formed in a marine environment, covers the entire Middle East, including the regions around Mount Ararat. Proponents of an early (K-Pg) Flood/post-Flood boundary have proposed that the Middle East remained flooded and impassable for about two centuries after the Ark landed, preventing worldwide dispersal during that time.

In the Summer 2023 issue of the *CRSQ*, Tomkins presents an exegetical analysis of the Hebrew text of Genesis 8:13-22, showing that the regions of the Middle East around Mount Ararat, and probably all the continents, were dry by Genesis 8:14, allowing Noah, his family, and the animals to leave the Ark and disperse. In the exegesis of this passage, the Hebrew grammar shows it to be historical narrative like Genesis 1, not poetry or mythohistory. In Genesis 8:13, Noah saw that the ground was dry, but conditions were clearly not agreeable for leaving the Ark. Almost two months later, God commanded Noah to leave the Ark along with his family and all the animals, and they obeyed. There is nothing in the text to say that they were restricted to living only in the area where the Ark landed.

Following this exegesis, Tomkins explains a number of aspects of the geology and geography of the post-Flood world. While the Tejas Megasequence shows evidence of deposition during the receding phase of the Flood, there are thin Pleistocene strata above it. The Pleistocene strata are typically composed of random-sized rock fragments that are loose and uncemented in comparison to the Flood layers below. They often contain features produced by receding glaciers, such as drumlins, moraines, glacial till, and erratics that show the extent and direction of flow of past glaciers and ice sheets.

Secular scientists struggle to explain evidence of an Ice Age and have produced dozens of theories but lack a mechanism. However, a Biblical model has been proposed in which the Flood causes conditions to initiate an Ice Age about 200 years later that then lasts about 500 years. In this model, the production of new seafloor and the mixing of hot water from "the fountains of the great deep" (Genesis 7:11) creates relatively hot oceans, which result in higher evaporation rates. Aerosols from the enormous amounts of volcanism near subduction zones during the Flood would have blocked a significant amount of solar radiation, resulting in generally cooler temperatures over the continents for the accumulation of snow and ice. This whole process would have taken a lot of time as the Earth gradually equilibrated from the massive movements of plate tectonics during the Flood. The Ice Age would have tied up large quantities of water in ice sheets, lowering sea levels worldwide and exposing land bridges that could be used by people and animals to spread around the world and repopulate it.

This research provides a clear answer for those who would claim that the Earth was still too wet for dispersal from the Ark. The Hebrew text and geological evidence do not support this idea. Rather, they show that the Earth had dried sufficiently by Genesis 8:14 for the animals to begin to disperse, and the timing of the Ice Age would have produced land bridges for people and animals to traverse far and wide.

Reference

Tomkins, J. 2023. The Post-Flood Ark Dispersal and Early Pleistocene: Exegetical and Geological Notes on Genesis 8:13-22. *CRSQ 60(1)*:29-37.

Identification of Leviathan

In the book of Job, God points out 14 creatures He made. Some of them are still alive today, but a few have gone extinct. A couple of the creatures named and described by God—specifically Behemoth and Leviathan—are often treated as nonliteral. In other words, they are treated as myths or metaphors. This is because they seem to describe dinosaurs, which by secular reasoning were extinct for millions of years before man's supposed evolution and, therefore, could not have been seen by Job. However, the questions the Lord asked Job about Leviathan are what finally brought him to repentance. In fact, God's entire discourse of 77 questions in Job 38-41 is intended to show that all should humble themselves before their mighty and trustworthy Creator. He refers to real, living animals in order to show His authority and power over His creation. To reduce any of them to mere mythology raises questions about God's trustworthiness.

In the Fall 2023 issue of *CRSQ*, Thomas and Biddle briefly explain clues in Scripture that suggest Job lived during the post-Flood Ice Age when the Middle East

See **Research Matters** *on page 6*

Apologetics in the New Testament

by Lindsay Harold, M.A.T.

Apologetics is not a new endeavor. It's a trendy word today, but the concept of providing evidence for the Christian faith is at least 2,000 years old. Jesus and the apostles used objective evidence to support their claims. If we are to follow the example of those who have gone before us and be effective in winning the lost and strengthening the faith of believers, we must learn to use apologetics.

Here are some examples of apologetics being used in the New Testament to prove the truth of Christianity:

Jesus' Healing of the Paralytic Man

We all know the story of the paralyzed man who was let down through the roof by his friends so that Jesus could heal him. Taking a closer look, however, reveals that Jesus healed this man specifically to prove that He was God. Jesus didn't ask anyone to believe that blindly. He provided evidence they could all see. He first told the man his sins were forgiven, but the Pharisees were reasoning that only God could forgive sins. Here is how Jesus responded to their observation.

> *Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.* Luke 5:23-24

The purpose of the healing was not merely to be compassionate to the paralytic man. Jesus used His power to heal as evidence that He also had the power to forgive sins. He was proving His divinity with His miracles. This occurred again and again in the gospels. Jesus pointed to the evidence from His miracles to prove that He was God.

> *Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.* John 10:36-38

Peter's Sermon on the Day of Pentecost

Peter's sermon in Acts 2 used evidence to prove that Jesus was the Messiah. Peter specifically pointed to the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, to the miracles that Jesus performed, and to the resurrection.

> *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: … This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.* Acts 2:22, 32

It is also worth noting here that while Peter did reference Old Testament scripture in his sermon, he also utilized evidence that was not in scripture at that time. He used the resurrection. We often think of the resurrection as something written in the Bible, but the New Testament had not been written at this point. Peter was pointing to eyewitness testimony that Jesus had risen from the dead as evidence for Christianity.

Peter's Sermon to Cornelius

The sermon that Peter gave to the household of Cornelius resulted in the first Gentile converts to Christianity. Peter used the evidence from the miracles Jesus performed, which were already known to His audience, and then the eyewitness testimony of the resurrection.

> *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. … While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.* Acts 10:38-41, 44

Note that while Peter is giving this evidence to those assembled, the Holy Spirit works in their hearts and brings them to repentance. The Holy Spirit is not limited to working through the quoting of scripture. He can also work in human hearts when they hear extra-biblical evidence for Christianity. Peter's evidence was not yet written in any scripture, but it was greatly used by the Holy Spirit to bring people to faith.

Paul's Sermon on Mars Hill

Paul's sermon on Mars Hill had a primarily pagan audience. He began with their knowledge of some unknown God and used the evidence that a creation must have a Creator in order to tell them about the true God. This is knowledge that is accessible to everyone, even those unfamiliar with the scriptures.

> *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly wor-*

See **Apologetics** *on page 7*

Fascia

continued from page 3

The team soon realized that kinetic action due to both the movement of the digestive tract and physical activity of the body, helps to move the facia, facilitating maintaining its healthy structure. This discovery has further opened up the fact that the body is connected in ways that we are only now just beginning to understand:

> Remarkably, until the early 2000s, no one had studied this common tissue in detail. Among the first to do so was Carla Stecco … [who] started studying fascia 20 years ago … [her work documented that fascia problems caused] everything from headaches to muscle and joint pain. His [Carla's father's] system is now one of many physical therapies that hinge on the idea that fascia can become stiff, and that it can be "released" through massage. (Williams, 2022, p. 38)

Since then, research has proven that the fascia is rich in nerves, and that, depending on the location of the fascia, the information these nerves relay to the brain varies. Nerves in *superficial fascia* specialize in sensing pressure, temperature, and movement. Nerves in the *deep fascia* are involved in **proprioception** (the body's sense of its parts' position in three-dimensional space) and **nociception** (the sensing of pain)(Trojian, 2019). Because of this central role in the body, researchers reason that fascia should be considered a new organ specializing in communication to the brain about the body's internal state.

Nor is it by any means a minor organ. One estimate is that an "adult fascia contains approximately 250 million nerve endings… slightly more than the skin." Thus, it appears "beyond any doubt our richest sensory organ" (Williams, 2022, p. 40). The evidence is that deep fascia specializes in *different* messages than emitted by other organs. Specifically, the nerves in the skin and muscles produce focused, localized pain and the deep fascia is linked to the radiating pain common in several chronic pain disorders, including fibromyalgia (van Leeuwen, et al., 2016).

Conclusions

This research has opened the door to understanding a long-neglected, complex, and critical body-organ system. Understanding this system may well end up requiring adding a new chapter to the anatomy and medical textbooks. It is another example of how, as research progresses, the human body is proven to be even more complex than previously believed. This gives new meaning to Psalm 139:13. The fact is, "it is high time for the mainstream medical profession to start paying attention to this tissue. … fascia [is] important to many areas of medicine, and as a window into our overall health" that should not be ignored (Williams, 2022, p. 41). It also allows for a more complete understanding of the Scriptures' expression that the body is literally knit together.

References

Trojian, T., and A.K. Tucker. 2019. Plantar Fasciitis. *American Family Physician 99(12)*:744-750.

Unbound Medicine. 2022. "Fascia." *Taber's Online: Taber's Medical Dictionary*. www.tabers.com/tabersonline/view/Tabers-Dictionary/736982/all/fascia.

van Leeuwen, K.D.B., J. Rogers, T. Winzenberg, and M. van Middlekoop. 2016. Higher body mass index is associated with plantar fasciopathy/'plantar pain': systematic review and meta-analysis of various clinical and imaging risk factors. *British Journal of Sports Medicine 50(16)*:972-981.

Williams, C. 2022. Your second skin. *New Scientist 254(3386)*:38-41.

Solar

continued from page 2

round trip; therefore, the sun has made only a very brief start on its first circuit of the Milky Way since its recent supernatural creation.

The sun has an unusual 11-year cycle during which its magnetic polarity reverses, as if a compass needle switches from north to south. This cycle results from complex electrical currents within the sun. Increased activity at each "solar max" produces auroras from solar wind radiation. The next solar maximum will center around July 2025.

Our faithful sun with its unfathomable energy output is clearly created for our survival and well-being.

Research Matters

continued from page 4

had a tropical climate suitable for large reptiles. By taking the position that God created the universe and everything in it only a few thousand years ago and that the Genesis Flood had deposited most of Earth's fossil-bearing rock layers, they propose that Leviathan was a real animal living in Job's day but extinct in ours. After discussing the idea of Leviathan as a myth or metaphor, the authors then consider the other mentions of it in Scripture and examine the context to determine whether those references are meant metaphorically or literally.

Having established a logical and Scriptural basis for identifying Leviathan as an extinct reptile, the authors look at the two passages where it is referred to literally to make a list of its anatomical and behavioural characteristics. Then they consider three quality candidates for the creature's identity: *Sarcosuchus*, *Spinosaurus egypticus*, and *Deinosuchus*. Job 41:31b refers to Leviathan as stirring the water in a way that implies spinning. Among modern alligators and crocodiles, this behaviour is known as a "death roll." *Sarcosuchus*' tail does not have the required flexibility to perform this behaviour, so it is eliminated as a candidate. *Spinosaurus* has a flexible tail, but it also has a bony sail on its back that would hinder its ability to spin or twirl underwater, so it is also eliminated, leaving *Deinosuchus* as the only remain-

See **Research Matters** *on page 7*

Research Matters

continued from page 6

ing candidate.

The authors then examine *Deinosuchus* in more detail. Unlike *Sarcosuchus*, *Deinosuchus* had the tail flexibility required to perform a death roll. It was also 2-3 m longer than *Sarcosuchus* and had the largest dermal scutes of any known alligatoroid. It is proposed that if *Deinosuchus* could spin in a death roll as modern alligators and crocodiles do, it may also have exhibited other observed behaviours. Some modern alligatoroids have a mating behaviour in which the male produces an infrasonic rumble that causes the water on his back to "dance," which matches God's words in Job 41:31a saying that Leviathan "makes the water boil." It has also recently been found that *Deinosuchus* had an enlarged chamber at the tip of its snout, so the final point evaluated is the possibility that it may have been able to breathe fire. This chamber is separate from the animal's breathing nostrils, which are positioned above its eyes.

Job's response to God's descriptions of untameable animals is, at first, to acknowledge that he did not know what he was talking about. Not satisfied with this answer, God asked Job about Behemoth and Leviathan. He used these two examples to illustrate His own character: He is greater than any of His creations, and He can take the most discouraging and crushing experiences in our lives and bring good out of them. If Leviathan was only a myth or metaphor, this decreases our ability to see God as the ultimate Authority over creation and reduces His caring, compassionate nature to what we can understand—a god of our own making. On the other hand, if Leviathan is recognized as a real animal, we can learn about God's purpose in even the most terrible of circumstances to bring us to humble ourselves before Him, repent, and be restored to relationship with Him for His glory.

Reference

Thomas, B. and D.A. Biddle. 2023. Insight into Job's Theology from a New Identification for Leviathan. *CRSQ 60(2)*:72-83.

Apologetics

continued from page 5

> *ship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; … And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.* Acts 17:22-26, 30-31

Paul knew that pagans would not acknowledge a scripture they did not know or believe. He had to prepare their hearts to hear the scripture first. He used the knowledge apparent to all men that there must be a great Creator of all the world to whom they owe obedience and worship (Romans 1:18-21). He then used the evidence from the resurrection to point to Jesus.

Conclusion

As these examples show, the repeated practice of Jesus and the apostles was to use evidence to prove Christianity. The early church pointed to Old Testament scripture, especially Messianic prophecies, and the eyewitness testimony of the resurrection for those who already believed in scripture, such as the Jews. They used evidence from creation and the resurrection for those who did not already believe scripture. In both cases, they used apologetics.

Today, we are further removed from the events of Bible times and use slightly different apologetics methods because of that. In the days of the early church, they could use eyewitness testimony directly. They had people still alive who could testify that they had seen Jesus alive after He was crucified. We don't have any of those eyewitnesses alive today. Thus, we use historical texts and accounts of early Christians who died for their testimony to show that it is reasonable to believe they were telling the truth.

In the 1st century, the fact that the world was created was self-evident to everyone. Christians needed only to point out that a creation requires a Creator. In today's world where evolution is widely believed, we have to provide evidence that the universe was created in order to then point to the Creator. Creation science is a type of apologetics.

The Bible not only gives us examples of the early church using apologetics, but it also provides a command that we do the same.

> *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* 1 Peter 3:15

The word *answer* in this verse is the Greek word *apologia*, from which we get the word apologetics. It means an evidential defense, such as lawyer might give in a courtroom. We are not told to simply state our belief, but to give reasons for it. This assumes that the evidence exists, and that we should know it. It means that we should be prepared, in advance, to provide evidence for our faith to a lost and confused world that needs the Savior.

Creation Research Society
Research is our middle name

1 W. Firestorm Way #145
Glendale, AZ 85306
USA

Prayer Matters

Praise: We have a new director for the Van Andel Creation Research Center! This is an answer to prayer.

Prayer: Please pray for the new director, Dr. Joel Brown, as he moves to Arizona to take up his new responsibilities and for wisdom as he fulfills those duties.

Please pray for the leadership of the CRS during this time of transition, that all will go smoothly, and that they can move forward with the existing research projects and any new projects that are coming.

We cannot do this without your prayers.

Thank You!

Call for Abstracts

The Creation Research Society is now accepting abstracts for the 2024 CRS Conference. The conference will be held July 25-27 at the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY. Submitted abstracts should cover the research methods and major results of the project as well as the significance of the research to creation science. All authors should be listed. Each abstract also requires a sponsor who is a voting member of the CRS. This sponsor can be an author or non-author sponsor. Abstracts must be submitted by April 15, 2024. Unlike in previous years, all abstracts should be submitted online through the form at creationresearch.org/conference-abstracts.

Registration for this year's CRS Conference is also open. To register, visit creationresearch.org/conference-2024.